## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Yoichi Okano Examiner: Colleen A. Hoar

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Sir:

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, it is requested that the following references, which are also listed on the attached Form PTO-1449, be made of record in the above-identified case.

1. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 2002-328946, dated November 15, 2002;

## CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent & Trademark Office via Electronic Filing through the United States Patent and Trademark Office e-business website, on March 10, 2008.

Dated: March 10, 2008

\*\*Matherine R. Nievra\*\*

- 2. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 2001-203811, dated July 27, 2001;
- 3. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 2000-270009, dated September 29, 2000;
- 4. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 2002-251500, dated September 6, 2002; and
- 5. Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 2002-208072, dated July 26, 2002.

The references were cited in an Official Action dated February 5, 2008 received from the Japanese Patent Office. Applicant is submitting a copy of the above-cited references required by 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i) and (ii), the Official Action, and an English translation of the Examiner's comments regarding the references from the Official Action. The relevance of the references is described in the Official Action. Please note that the other reference cited in the Official Action, namely Japanese Patent Application KOKAI Publication No. 2001-22831A, dated January 26, 2001, was previously submitted in Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement dated November 17, 2003.

In compliance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3), as a concise statement of relevance, as it is presently understood by the individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of the information, the undersigned attorney of record submits a translation of portions of an Official Action by a foreign examiner in which the references were cited. The relevance to the pending U.S. patent application is that the references were cited in a foreign patent application on the same subject matter. However, no independent analysis of the references, the accuracy of the statement of the foreign examiner or the claims of the foreign application under the laws of that country or the United States relative to the subject

matter claimed in the present application has been made; the present understanding of the contents thereof by the undersigned being based on the translation of the foreign examiner's comments submitted herewith.

The undersigned attorney hereby states that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine R. Vie

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